

**KIM WALESH**  
**Director of Economic Development,**  
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Kim Walesh is Director of Economic Development and Chief Strategist for the City of San Jose, the nation's 10<sup>th</sup> largest city and Capital of Silicon Valley. Kim leads implementation of the City's comprehensive economic strategy to catalyze job growth, private investment, revenue generation, and talent attraction. She oversees citywide initiatives in business retention and attraction, downtown development, cultural vitality, workforce development, and real estate. As Chief Strategist, Kim assists the City's executive leadership team with organizational innovation and strategic planning. She has a proven track record of transforming ideas into action through collaboration.

Prior to joining the City of San Jose, Kim was co-founder and managing director of Collaborative Economics--a Silicon Valley-based consultancy that works with business and civic leaders to build stronger economies and better communities. She advised leaders on development challenges at the local, regional, and state levels across the United States. She pioneered new approaches to industry cluster engagement, cross-sector collaboration, and measuring civic progress.

Kim also served as senior policy analyst at SRI International's Center for Economic Competitiveness, where she played management and analytic roles in more than 20 state and regional competitiveness projects in North America, Asia, and Europe.

Kim is co-author of the books *Grassroots Leaders for a New Economy: How Civic Entrepreneurs Build Prosperous Communities* and *Civic Revolutionaries: Igniting the Passion for Change in American Communities*. She has written more than 50 other reports and publications, including key documents about the Silicon Valley region. She is a founding board member SPUR San Jose, the ZERO1 art and technology network, and the Prospect Silicon Valley clean tech center.

Kim holds a bachelors degree in economics and humanities from Valparaiso University and a master of public policy degree from Harvard University, where she was a Kennedy Fellow.